



February 2023 Newsletter

latest news and updates

Much has happened since our last newsletter. Our 10-year anniversary celebrations have been topped off by the ability of Board members to travel to the Philippines. This newsletter reports on the November 2022 visit to Talomo District by our Chairman, Ali Douglas and board members Max Greenwood and Jeanette Emery, the launch of an exciting literacy program and we both farewell and welcome board members. All this activity has set the scene for a very busy 2023.

AFFLIP Board Members return to the Philippines

We are excited to report that AFFLIP Board members, Ali Douglas, Max Greenwood and Jeanette Emery visited the Talomo District during November 13th to 23rd, 2022. The focus of the visit was the launched the Guided Reading program, with all school heads and school coordinators, and a review of the flagship programs. It was also an opportunity to celebrate the 10th anniversary of AFFLIPs work with Talomo District schools and leaders.

The visit was busy, extremely well organized and showcased the advances that have been made across the schools of the Talomo District with AFFLIP's flagship programs despite the challenges of COVID. It involved visits to all schools, meetings with the Talomo administrators, Flagship Program coordinators and their TWGs. Workshops were also conducted with school-based program coordinators from all flagship programs. This provided great insights into the implementation of the programs in the schools.



The Guided Reading initiative commenced with great enthusiasm from all involved including the school heads, Literacy TWG, School based coordinators and School Implementation Teams (SITs). (See full report below)

The highlight as always, was the opportunity to visit schools and talk to pupils, parents, and teachers. Each school presented their own summary of AFFLIP programs over the past year.

Meetings were held with the Assistant Regional Director and Davao City Division Superintendent Ines Asuncion, Division supervisors, USEP personnel, Australian Embassy officials and Manila based organisations, all of which provided excellent advocacy opportunities for AFFLIP. Brad Prout, CEO FINSTRO, visited Davao to view all projects first-hand and was very impressed.



Board members were extremely grateful for the warm welcome and cooperation they received over the course of the visit. The commitment and enthusiasm of school heads and school-based coordinators to attend all activities clearly demonstrated their commitment to the AFFLIP programs as means of assisting their pupils.

The 10-year AFFLIP Celebration was an amazing event in all respects and emphasized the strength of the partnership between the Board and its members in Australia and the educators of the Talomo District, Davao City Division and the Region XI Regional Office

We look forward to our next visit.

Book Box Scheme Launched

The Guided Reading using Book Box project (GRUBB) is a very exciting literacy improvement strategy launched with great enthusiasm in the Talomo District of the Philippines.

AFFLIP is very pleased to be working in partnership with Magic Libraries Foundation (Geneva) on this project. With their assistance we have been able to expand what was initially a small-scale project into a project that engages all sites across two educational districts in the Philippines.

The project, which focusses on reading in English, was introduced to Cluster One, consisting of five Talomo Schools, AFFLIP Board members, Max Greenwood and Jeanette Emery during November 2022.

The project utilizes a small group instruction strategy, Guided Reading, and is designed to improve the literacy levels of students reading in the English language.

Comprehensive workshops were conducted with all fifteen school principals and reading coordinators. Five further full day workshops were conducted in each of the selected cluster one schools involving the Principal, Reading Coordinator and Grade 4 and Grade 5 teachers.

The scheme will be introduced to the remaining Cluster Two and Cluster Three schools in April.

The project is highly valued and relevant in the Talomo District where literacy improvement is currently a national priority. AFFLIP's November visit was very timely as it coincided with Filipino National Literacy Week.

GRUBB has been voluntarily developed by AFFLIP literacy portfolio members. Training and Development modules, workshop materials and professional teachers' resources have been compiled by AFFLIP using contemporary reading research and adapted to fit the Philippines educational context.



Whilst over 120 languages are recognised in the Philippines, language teaching in schools focuses on Mother Tongue, Filipino and English, the latter two being the official languages of the country.

From Kindergarten to Grade 3, children are predominantly instructed in Mother Tongue, with Filipino and English introduced late in Year 1. Filipino and English become the languages of instruction from Year 4 onwards. English reading proficiency is very important for educational success in the Philippines. GRUBB targets Year 4-5 students and aims to improve students reading comprehension, vocabulary and fluency in English.

The Book Box Scheme when fully implemented will introduce Guided Reading to 3400 Grade 5 students and 2600 Grade 4 students during 2023.

Magic Libraries has generously provided the funding for the 6120 books required to implement the scheme across both Talomo A and Talomo B Districts in all fifteen schools, along with the training and development and teacher's resources required. AFFLIP is extremely grateful for their support.



Teachers and leaders
learning together.

The improvement in reading English along with students' attitudes and motivation to read will be carefully monitored and the results may be promoted to influence the use of small group instruction in schools outside of the Talomo District.

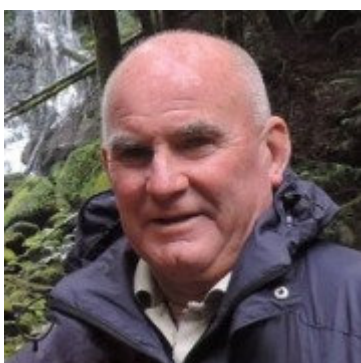
Guided Reading Using Book Boxes, (GRUBB) complements AFFLIP's Learning Empowerment objective, which includes:

- provision of learning resources for identified schools in the Philippines
- professional development programmes for Filipino teachers and administrators.

AFFLIP Board member changes

Since AFFLIP was incorporated in 2011, 31 people have served on the Board and led our suite of programs and activities with purpose and distinction. We have also been extremely fortunate to have had the support and advice of three active patrons in Greg Crafter, Stephen Baker and Alan Reid.

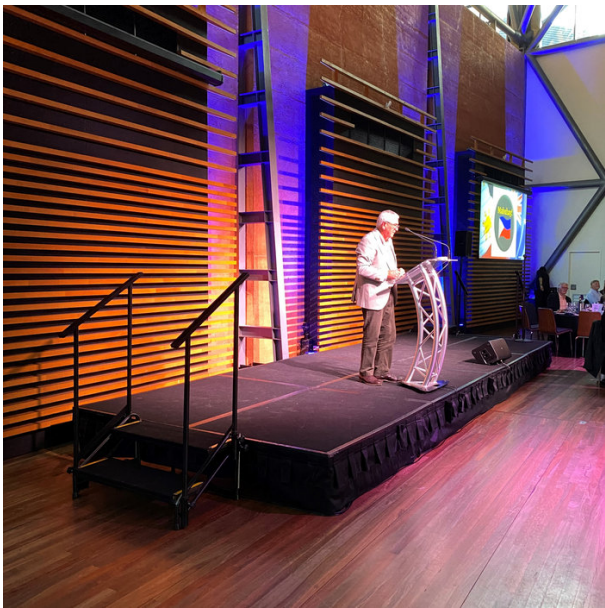
Trevor Tiller and Tim Jackson both retired from the Board last December at the AGM. Trevor was an inaugural Board member and has been an integral part of AFFLIP leading the Schools Learning Network and Health and Nutrition portfolios. Tim joined the Board in Oct 2017 and has been particularly active in the Governance and Partnerships Portfolios. He has also been the Deputy Chair and a member of the executive for three years. We thank them both for their outstanding contributions during their time on the Board.



At the AGM we were very pleased to elect Deidre Fischer and Bonnie Ryan to the Board in the portfolios of Governance and ICT/Digital Learning respectively. We welcome them and look forward to utilising their extensive skills and experience.

AFFLIP Ten Year Celebration a Great Success!

What an amazing night! AFFLIPs 10-year anniversary celebration held on Friday 4th Nov 2022 saw 240 supporters dig deep to raise over \$25000 to support our ongoing work. After a great meal, fabulous entertainment, and fierce bidding in the auction for the many donated items, the crowd danced the night away. Thanks must go to Guy Wilson and his team for their fabulous organisation of this gala event and to all our wonderful sponsors and supporters.





Interested in supporting AFFLIP's work?

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afflip australian foundation
for fostering learning
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